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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,119	08/29/2003	David L. Dean JR.	HE0205	1840
21495	7590	03/02/2006	EXAMINER	
CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC			PRASAD, CHANDRIKA	
P O BOX 489			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HICKORY, NC 28603			2839	

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/652,119	DEAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chandrika Prasad	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

1. The reply filed 02/07/06 consists of amendments to claims 1, 4, 12, 14 –16 and remarks related to rejection of claims. The claims are not allowable as described below.

Specification

2. The following is a quotation of an appropriate paragraph of 37 CFR 1.75:

(d) The claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description. (See 1.58(a)).

3. Specification is objected under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d) because precision molded has not been described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Precision molded has no basis in the original disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luther et al. (5867621).

Luther (Figures 1-6) shows a multi-fiber ferrule 38 with a molded ferrule body having a plurality of bores 52 for receiving ends of optical fibers, openings 50a, 50b for receiving alignment members and defining a longitudinal axis wherein the ferrule body comprises an integrally formed geometrical reference feature 44 that defines a reference plane which can be used for determining the angularity of a plane defined by the molded end face 46, 48 by visually comparing the two planes. The geometric feature 44 and end faces 46, 48 are on a bumper of the ferrule body. The molded end face has a first surface normal to the longitudinal axis and a second surface 46 at a predetermined angle to the first surface. The geometric reference feature eliminates the need of using an interferometer, thereby eliminating the need for using a truncated precision measurement pin for determining angularity of the plane defined a region of interest. The reference feature 44 is recessed from the end face 48 and is not machined. The surface of the feature 44 is perpendicular to the axis. The reference feature protrudes from the end face. The reference feature is accessible when alignment members are received in the openings 50a, 50b and not altered throughout the useful life of the ferrule. The molded end face is not machined. The geometrical feature is on an exterior surface of the ferrule body.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luther et al. (5867621).

Luther shows all the features of this claim except the reference feature within the opening. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide the reference feature within the opening since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japiske, 86 USPQ 70.

10. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luther et al. (5867621).

Luther shows all the features of these claims except a second ferrule. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide a plurality of ferrules because this would require a mere duplication of essential parts, which involve only routine skill in the art. St. Regis Co. vs. Bemis co., 193 USPQ 8.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 02/07/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Since Luther shows the structure, its functions such as its use for planarity determination, elimination of the need of using an interferometer or thereby eliminating the need for using a truncated precision measurement pin for determining angularity of the plane defined a region of interest are inherent. The applicant argues that Luther provides Nagasawa et al. as examples of MTP connectors that could be used with the Luther adapter, and that Nagasawa et al. do imply that all MTP connectors are polished. The


examiner disagrees. Luther does not explicitly disclose that Luther's adapter is limited to the use of MTP connectors and Nagasawa et al. do not explicitly disclose that all MTP connectors are polished. Furthermore, none of claims refer to any MTP connector. The examiner did not find any such disclosure in Nagasawa. Determination of angularity of an end face defined by a geometrical feature using visual observation is common knowledge and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Contact Information

12. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad at (571) 272-2099. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.


Chandrika Prasad
Primary examiner
February 21, 2006